

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MARK E. EIDSON et al. § Group Art Unit: 2641
Serial No.: 09/185,248 §
Filed: November 3, 1998 § Examiner: A. Armstrong
For: MIXING DIVERSELY ENCODED § Atty. Dkt. No.: ITL.0136US
DATA STREAMS § (P6520)

Rox AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MARCH 12, 2002

Sir:

Please amend the application as set forth below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add on page 2, new lines 11-27 as follows:

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--In one embodiment the invention provides a method to combine two or more data streams. The method includes receiving a first data stream in a first encoded format, decoding the first data stream into a decoded format, obtaining a second data stream in the decoded format, and combining the decoded first data stream with the second data stream. The first encoded format may, for example, be associated with a video data stream, an audio data stream, or a multimedia data stream. The decoded format may be any format which allows two or more data streams to be combined in a direct manner. Instructions representing the method may be stored in any media that is readable and executable by a computer system.--

--In another embodiment, the invention provides a computer system comprising a multimedia source, a host processor to receive an encoded data stream from the multimedia source, a decoder to decode at least a portion of the received encoded data stream, a mixer to combine two or more data streams (each of which are in a decoded format), and an encoder to encode the combined data streams.--

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Dawn L. Thomas